

MITCHELL AND HERMAN MAY BE BARRED OUT

Defendants in Conspiracy Case Promise to Tell What They Know About Land Frauds.

Portland, Dec. 19.—It appears of considerable doubt whether United States Senator Mitchell and Congressman Binger Hermann, now on their way from Washington, D. C., to ask the privilege of appearing before the federal grand jury in their own behalf will be granted the wish. It is stated on good authority that these gentlemen will only be allowed to go before the grand jury in case everybody believes that they have evidence necessary for the jury to know. In charging the jury Judge Bellinger stated that if persons connected with the testimony were to ask to appear in their own behalf he recommended the request be granted, but specifically stated this was not the legal right of such persons. He added it would be proper for the jury to allow them to appear if they saw fit to do so.

The reason for the postponement of the second conspiracy case has become apparent. It was ascertained today that on the evening of December 12, the defendants in the first case had a conference until late at night. At the meeting were present Puter, Mrs. Watson, McKinley, Miss Ware and perhaps D. W. Tarpley. It was argued they were at a disadvantage;

that they had been convicted, with the exception of Ware, and a great deal of trouble was ahead, all things considered.

Mrs. Watson and McKinley could not see why they should suffer in silence while the investigators of the conspiracy rested in peace and security. Then it was decided to tell what they knew. Miss Ware, however, held out. She did not concede she had anything to confess, she, however, at last consented to go before the grand jury with whatever testimony she might be able to give. The return for this, it is said, the defendants were assured they could hope to receive the minimum sentence for their crimes if convicted.

As to the cases postponed, it is unlikely the public will ever hear of them again. The agreement was commenced in its fulfillment today when Puter and McKinley went before the jury and told what they knew. Marie Ware is in readiness to testify, but was not called today. Clyde Lloyd, Eugene, and Thaddeus S. Potter, an attorney in the office of F. Pierce May, a well known lawyer of Portland, are also witnesses.

MASTODON TUSK BASIS OF FORTUNE

Harry Hill, the millionaire lumber man of Alaska, found his fortune when he found the tusk of a mastodon.

Although a young man, Mr. Hill is reputed to have a fortune large enough to make even Russell Sage sit up and take notice, and he made it all out of lumber. Nome City, from which he hails, was practically built of lumber furnished by him.

The story of the mastodon tusk and Hill's rise to prosperity through it is common property in the great northwest territory.

Seven years ago he went to Alaska as a prospector. He failed to make a strike and was about to return to the states. When traveling north of Nome he saw great forests there and knew that a fortune greater than any gold mine existed in them.

Putting a knowledge of the lumber industry to work, Hill soon acquired the right to cut unlimited timber, but he lacked the means to do it. He had no money to pay the enormous cost of a sawmill in that territory and he saw no chance of getting it until one day the mastodon's tusk appeared on the scene.

In the heart of the great forest through which the young man was

wandering and making plans for the future, but at the same time keeping his eyes open for new species of timber, he leaned to rest for a moment against what he thought was an enormous boulder. As he did so there was a crash, he felt himself falling in a cloud of dust, and when, much surprised, he picked himself up again it was to find that the boulder was in reality the skull of an antediluvian monster.

Investigating further, he found that it was the skull of a mastodon, with its tusks buried in the ground, just as it had fallen thousands of years ago in some general battle with its kind. Securing tools, he dug downward and unearthed one perfect tusk and the broken half of another.

To make a long story short, he sold the large tusk to the Canadian government for \$8000, and through this sale met people who financed him through his lumber project.

From the broken half he has had different small objects made for use as presents and Edward VII. of England plays billiards with the only ivory balls ever made from the tusk of a mastodon.—Exchange.

Strike at Mountain View.

The Miner learns from a reliable source that a rich strike was made in the Mountain View one day last week, but at the present writing has been unable to secure detailed information. It is related that a large body of ore was uncovered, that will enable the company to run

SUMPTERITES PROVE ALIBI

Editor Sumpter Miner:—Kindly advise your readers that Major Norton, of Wheeling, West Virginia, has not been perpetrating "outrages" in the Cracker Creek district, as appears in your issue of yesterday, as the result of an unaccountable typographical misplacement of your news items. Major Norton is a retired officer of the United States army and is the secretary of the Citizen's Consolidated Gold Mining company, an organization composed of responsible citizens of Wheeling, West Virginia, who are investing their money in this camp, in the hope of promoting their individual welfare, as well as contributing their share in the development of the rich resources of eastern Oregon. The statement made by your reporter if properly and conscientiously printed, are reliable and correct. The company has adjusted all differences heretofore existing between themselves in and all other parties, and the dove of peace roosts high at the Gold Coin mine.

Very Truly, T. H. NORTON.
Sumpter, Dec. 14.

Through one of those "accidents that sometimes happens in the best regulated families," The Miner got Major Norton mixed up with a train

robbery, made him "perpetrate outrages," which "emboldened the gang" and had him connected with all kinds of morally dreadful things. Instead, he is as genial a gentleman as ever unraveled a mining tangle, doing the square thing with all parties concerned; a thoroughbred, withal and a business man as well.

Together with Dr. A. F. Gamble, the president of the company, he has been at the Gold Coin mine for a couple of weeks past, arranging for extensive development of the property. They have already expended over \$12,000 in surface improvements, consisting of boarding, bunk and power houses, machine shop, offices and so forth. They are the kind of people needed in eastern Oregon, and no one need feel any uneasiness when they are around, on account of this inadvertent mixup with an attempted holdup. The Miner is convinced that neither one of the gentlemen had anything to do with that job; an alibi can be established without doubt. Besides, if they had been connected with the enterprise, it would have been a success, because they don't know how to fail in any undertaking.

its mill night and day; that in this shoot is a streak of high grade ship-ping ore that will be sent to the smelter for treatment, shipments to begin at an early day. The larger portion of the find is milling ore and will be reduced on the ground.

Baker's Federal Building.

Washington, Dec. 19.—That Baker City's long cherished hopes of a federal building is almost certain of realization was disclosed today at Washington when the secretary of the treasury sent in his recommendation to congress that an appropriation be made for a public building at Baker City on the site already owned by the government. No amount is designated in the recommendation made, but it is likely to call for a first appropriation of \$50,000 and go the continuous contract system.

WEATHERBY MINE SOLD TO PORTLAND LAWYER

In the suit of M. A. Butler, an attorney of Portland, against Weatherby Bonanza mine, Sheriff Brown yesterday sold all the property of the Weatherby-Bonanza company, located near Durkee, to M. A. Butler for \$3,057.29. The execution was issued from Multnomah county, where the judgment was obtained.

Mr. Butler, who was present at the sale and bid in the property personally, was hot prepared to state what he intended to do with it.—Democrat.

Magnolia Mill Not Running.

W. L. Vinson reached town this afternoon just in time to catch the train for Baker City, Al Jones driving him in from the Magnolia, where he has been for several days past. He says that an attempt was made a week ago to run the mill, but

owing to lack of water, nothing could be done. They had the same trouble there that the Sumpter Water & Light company experienced; the hard freeze arrived ahead of the snow, which is both a protection to and a supply of water for the flumes. Just how the new concentrator will work in saving the gold is therefore not yet known.

TIMBER LOCATORS WILL NOW HAVE TO VACATE

It is learned on authority, says the Baker City Democrat, that dispatches received from Washington, D. C. yesterday have denied the patents applied for by certain timber locators in the Elkhorn mine district, who for the past six or eight months have been locating claims in that vicinity. The locators will now have to vacate the property, as no protests will be allowed.

Mining men are pleased over the decision, as timber locators were infringing on the mineral ground.

George Campen, city engineer of Lincoln, Nebraska, arrived in Sumpter yesterday and drove out to the Black Jack mine, in which he is a heavy stock holder. Mr. Campen will remain at the mine for a couple of days.

Shipments of miscellaneous mining supplies were made this morning from Basche's store to the Oro Fino, at Alamo, the E. & E., at Bourne, and the Imperial, in Cable Cove.

Prof. H. H. Nicholson will leave tomorrow for Portland on business connected with the Standard mine. While in the metropolis he will arrange for a credible exhibit of Quartzburg ore at the '05 fair.

James Cussick, foreman of the I. X. L. mine, in the Greenhorn, has gone to California to visit with his parents during the winter.